

Description of a New Variety of *Lepidonotus cirratus* parasitic in the Tube of *Chætopterus insignis*. By W. BAIRD, M.D., F.L.S.

[Read December 15, 1864.]

IN the last volume of the 'Linnean Transactions' I described a new species of *Chætopterus* as British, and, at p. 485, Mr. Williams of Beaumaris, in his notes upon this Annelide, mentioned that generally speaking a species of *Lepidonotus* (*Polynoë*) was found by him living parasitic in the tubes of that animal. In a short note I mentioned that the parasitic worm was a variety of *L. cirratus*. I now beg to lay before the Society a fuller description of it.

LEPIDONOTUS CIRRATUS. Var. *parasiticus*, Baird.

Body about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, and at the widest part, including the setæ of the feet, 6 lines in breadth. It is slightly narrower near the anterior extremity. The scales are fifteen pairs. They cover the whole body, increase in size as they descend from the head, near which they are small, nearly circular in form; afterwards they become reniform and are covered with innumerable very small rough points, which are scarcely visible without the assistance of a glass of low power. The external edge is ciliated, or fringed with short clavate hairs. The head is concealed by the upper pair of scales. Eyes four in number; the upper pair wider apart than the lower. Of the three antennæ, the central or odd one is setaceous, suddenly terminating in a long, slender, sharp point, and beset with rather numerous short clavate hairs. The lateral pair are shorter than the central one, setaceous, smooth, the lower half conical in form, stout, marked across with a double purple streak, and, like the other, terminating suddenly in a long slender white point. Palpi very stout, especially near the base, setaceous, terminating more gradually in a point, and quite smooth. Tentacular cirri setaceous, and like the central antenna terminating suddenly in a long slender point, and beset with short clavate hairs, but with no enlargement or swelling near the apex. These organs are all short, and nearly of equal length, though the palpi are somewhat the longest and much the strongest. The cirri of the second pair of feet are smooth and setaceous; all the others are longer, setaceous, ringed with black below the apex, but without any swelling or enlargement there, terminating in a slender sharp point and beset with short clavate hairs. The caudal cirri are short. The feet are thirty-seven pairs in number. The dorsal

branch gives off a tuft of dark-coloured spines, generally covered with sordes, but when placed under the microscope are slender, with a smooth stalk, but finely denticulate for some way down from the apex, on both edges. The ventral branch is conical, rather sharp pointed, and gives off a tuft of yellow bristles. These are longer and stronger than those of the dorsal branch, and are strongly denticulate for some distance from the point. This variety differs from the typical form of *cirratus* in being altogether broader in shape; in being narrower at the anterior extremity than the posterior, the reverse of which is the case in *cirratus*; and in the cirri not being swollen or enlarged a little below the apex.

It is found inhabiting the tube or case of living *Chætopteri*. Mr. J. Williams, of Beaumaris, to whom I am indebted for the specimens, finds them nearly constantly in the case of the *Chætopterus insignis* at low water. In his letter to me he says, "it is generally found crouching on the lower segments of the body of the *Chætopterus*, and the earliest indication of the death of that annelide is the exit of the parasite from the tube."

Hab. Menai Straits, near Beaumaris. J. Williams. (Mus. Brit.)

On *Dicellura*, a new genus of Insects belonging to the Stirps *Thysanura*, in the order *Neuroptera*. By A. H. HALIDAY, A.M., F.L.S.

[Read January 21, 1865.]

THE genus is founded on an undescribed insect allied to *Campodea ambulans*, L. (sp. *Podura*) in general appearance and habits, but distinguished especially by having (in place of the pair of many-jointed filaments which terminate the abdomen in that species) a forceps like that which characterizes the Stirps *Labidura* in the same order. *Dicellura solifuga* appears to have a pretty extensive range in latitude, having been found, firstly, by Mr. Lucas in Algeria; afterwards at Paris, by the same author, who has received it also from the neighbourhood of Toulon; while the writer has found it in different parts of Central and Southern Italy. The institution of a family Dicelluridæ is suggested to comprize the two genera named, and distinguished from the remaining circumscribed group of *Lepismidæ* by the binary number of posterior appendages, the exarticulate tarsus, the simply falcated